

# **Official Transcript of Proceedings**

## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: D.C. Cook Application Renewal  
Public Meeting - Afternoon Session

Docket Numbers: 50-315 and 50-316

Location: Bridgman, Michigan

Date: Monday, March 8, 2004

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Pages 1-44

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Enclosure 2

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

3 + + + + +

4 IN RE: THE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL  
5 OF THE LICENSES OF INDIANA MICHIGAN  
6 POWER COMPANY, A WHOLLY-OWNED  
7 SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
8 POWER, TO OPERATE D.C. COOK NUCLEAR  
9 PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2, at BRIDGMAN,  
10 BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

11 + + + + +

12 commencing at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2004,  
13 at the Lake Township Hall building, 3220 Shawnee  
14 Street, Bridgman, Michigan.

15 APPEARANCES:

16 CHIP CAMERON, Meeting Facilitator

17 ROBERT SCHAAF

18 JOHN TAPPERT

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Monday, March 8, 2004 --

(All parties present in meeting room at or  
about 1:30 p.m.)

MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone.

My name is Chip Cameron, and I'm special counsel for public liaison at the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And I want to welcome you to the public meeting today. And we'll try not to use a lot of acronyms today, but if we do, we'll at least try to explain them. But one that you will hear is "NRC", for Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And the subject of our meeting today is the NRC's environmental review of an application that we received from American Electric Power to renew the operating licenses for the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Station, Units One and Two. And as you will be hearing more from the NRC staff today, the environmental review that we do is one part of our evaluation in deciding whether to renew those operating licenses for the Donald C. Cook plant, and it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator this afternoon. And in that role, I'm going to try to help all of you to have a productive meeting.

Before we get into the substance of the meeting today, I just wanted to say a few words about the meeting process. And the format that we're going to

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1 use is really a two-part format for the meeting, and the  
2 format matches the objective that we have for the  
3 meeting. First part of the meeting is to clearly  
4 explain to all of you what the NRC's license renewal  
5 process is; what types of information do we look at, how  
6 can the public participate in that process. And we have  
7 two brief NRC presentations for you to explain that, and  
8 then we'll go out to you to see if there are any  
9 questions about that. The second part of the meeting is  
10 to listen to any comments or advice, recommendations  
11 that you might have today, and we're going to give you a  
12 chance to make a formal comment to us. And the focus of  
13 the meeting today is on environmental impacts and what  
14 types of information should the NRC look at in  
15 developing its environmental impact statement. So we'll  
16 be looking forward to comments on that, or other  
17 concerns or interests that you might have with the  
18 license renewal.

19 The staff is going to tell you that we're  
20 accepting written comments on these issues, but I wanted  
21 to assure you that anything that you say at today's  
22 meeting will carry the same weight as a written comment  
23 that we receive. And we have, Marilyn is our  
24 stenographer today; we are taking a transcript of the  
25 meeting and that will be our formal record of the

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1 meeting, and it will be available to anybody who wants  
2 to take a look at what happened here this afternoon.

3 In terms of ground rules, they're very  
4 simple. After we get done with the NRC staff  
5 presentations, then we go for questions. If you have a  
6 question, just signal me and I'll bring you this  
7 cordless microphone. Give us your name and affiliation,  
8 if appropriate, and we'll go from there. I would ask  
9 that only one person speak at a time, most importantly  
10 so that we can give our full attention to whomever has  
11 the floor at the moment, but also so that we can get a  
12 clean transcript so that Marilyn knows who is speaking  
13 at any particular time. I always ask people to try to  
14 exercise some brevity in their questions and comments so  
15 that we can make sure that we hear from everyone who  
16 wants to speak today. I don't think we're going to have  
17 a time problem, but I would just add that as a request.

18 When we get to the formal comment part of  
19 the meeting, I would ask you to follow a guideline of  
20 five to seven minutes in your comments, and it is a  
21 guideline. If you go over a little bit, that's going to  
22 be -- that's going to be fine, but try to keep it to  
23 five to seven minutes.

24 Let me introduce the NRC speakers who are  
25 going to be talking today, and I would mention that we

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1 do have a number of NRC staff and expert consultants who  
2 are assisting us in preparing the environmental impact  
3 statement. They're here today to listen to what you  
4 have to say, to answer any questions that you might  
5 have. And after the meeting they will be here so  
6 there's an opportunity to talk to them informally.

7 Our prepared presentations, we're first  
8 going to go to Mr. John Tappert, who is right here.  
9 John is the -- is the chief of the environmental impact  
10 section within the License Renewal and Environmental  
11 Impact Program at the NRC, and that's located in our  
12 office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. John and his  
13 staff are responsible for overseeing the preparation of  
14 the environmental reviews on any action that has to do  
15 with reactors. In this case, it's a license renewal  
16 application, but they do it all and they have a lot of  
17 expertise in that area. John has been with the NRC for  
18 about 13 years. He has also served as a resident  
19 inspector. They are the NRC's eyes and ears, so to  
20 speak, at nuclear power plants to make sure that the NRC  
21 regulations are followed. Before that, he was with the  
22 Naval Nuclear Program. He has a Bachelor's in  
23 Aeronautic and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Tech  
24 and a Master's in Environmental Engineering from Johns  
25 Hopkins University. John will give you a formal welcome

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1 and give you some overview information on license  
2 renewal.

3 And then we're going to go to Mr. Bob  
4 Schaaf, who is right here. Bob is the Environmental  
5 Project Manager on the D.C. Cook license renewal  
6 application. And he is specifically responsible for  
7 overseeing the environmental review. He is going to  
8 give you the overview of the entire license renewal  
9 process and specifically the environmental review part  
10 of that process. Bob has also been with the agency for  
11 about 13 years and, before that, he was at the  
12 Charleston, South Carolina, Naval Shipyard. He has a  
13 Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.  
14 And I would thank all of you for being with us today,  
15 and this is one public meeting. Bob will give you his  
16 contact information. So, if you have questions or  
17 concerns, please contact Bob, and we can maintain some  
18 continuity with all of you after this meeting.

19 And with that, John, do you want to give  
20 us a welcome?

21 MR. TAPPERT: Yes. Thank you, Chip.  
22 And good afternoon and welcome. As Chip said, my  
23 name is John Tappert and, on behalf of the Nuclear  
24 Regulatory Commission, I would like to thank you for  
25 coming out here today and participating in this process.

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1 I hope that you find the information that we will share  
2 with you today will be helpful, and we look forward to  
3 receiving your comments, both today and in the future.

4 We'd like to start off by briefly going  
5 over the purposes of today's meetings and the agenda.  
6 We're going to start by getting a brief overview of the  
7 entire license renewal program. This includes both a  
8 safety review, as well as environmental review, which  
9 will be the principal focus of today's meeting. Then  
10 we'll give you some more details about how we would do  
11 that environmental review, which will assess the impacts  
12 associated with extending the operating licenses of the  
13 D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant for an additional 20  
14 years. And then we'll give you some information about  
15 the balance of our review schedule and how you can  
16 submit comments in the future. And then we get to the  
17 real heart of today's meeting, which is to receive any  
18 comments that you may have today.

19 First, some context for the license  
20 renewal process itself. The Atomic Energy Act gives the  
21 NRC the authority to issue operating licenses to  
22 commercial nuclear power plants for a period of 40 years.  
23 For D.C. Cook, Units 1 and 2, those operating licenses  
24 will expire in 2014 and 2017, respectively. Our  
25 regulations also make provisions for extending those

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1 operating licenses as part of a license renewal program,  
2 and AEP has requested license renewal for both units.

3 As part of the NRC's review of those  
4 applications, we will develop an environmental impact  
5 statement. Right now we're early in that process in  
6 what we call "scoping," where we seek to identify those  
7 issues which will require the greatest focus during our  
8 review.

9 This public meeting here today is part of  
10 that scoping process, and your comments today will help  
11 shape our review. After we make our preliminary  
12 assessments, we will publish a draft environmental  
13 impact statement and return here to present our findings  
14 in a public meeting. And with that as a brief  
15 introduction, I'd like to ask Bob to give you some more  
16 details on our review. Bob.

17 MR. SCHAAF: Thank you, John. As John  
18 said, my name is Bob Schaaf. I'm the Environmental  
19 Project Manager for the environmental review of the  
20 D.C. Cook license renewal application. I'll briefly  
21 describe the entire renewal application review process  
22 and then discuss the details of our environmental  
23 review.

24 Our renewal application review runs,  
25 essentially, in two parallel paths; a safety review and

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1 an environmental review. The safety review is supported  
2 by on-site inspections and audits and an independent  
3 review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

4 The safety review is focused on review of  
5 the applicant's programs for identifying and managing  
6 the aging of what we call "passive" systems, structures,  
7 and components. These programs are the focus of the  
8 renewal review because our existing regulatory processes  
9 for operating nuclear plants ensure, on an ongoing  
10 basis, that "active" systems, structures, and components  
11 are inspected, maintained, and replaced as needed.

12 The second review path involves the  
13 environmental review, which I'll discuss in detail  
14 shortly. The review process also includes on-site  
15 inspections and audits by staff from the regional office  
16 in Chicago and our headquarters staff outside  
17 Washington. And finally, again, the Advisory Committee  
18 on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS, conducts an independent  
19 review of the applicant's license renewal application  
20 and of the staff's review and provides recommendations  
21 directly to the Commission. The ACRS is an independent  
22 advisory board set up by Congress to review the work of  
23 the NRC staff.

24 This figure illustrates the entire renewal  
25 review process, highlighting opportunities for public

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1 involvement. The upper path shows the safety review,  
2 and lower path shows the environmental review. As noted  
3 previously, the safety review includes technical  
4 evaluation of the license renewal application by NRC  
5 staff, on-site inspections and audits, and independent  
6 review by ACRS. In parallel with the safety review, the  
7 NRC staff performs its review of the environmental  
8 impact of continued operation. Again, I will discuss  
9 this shortly.

10 At the end of the process, the final  
11 safety evaluation report, the final environmental impact  
12 statement, the results of the NRC staff's inspections,  
13 and the ACRS recommendations will be used by the agency  
14 in making a final determination on whether to renew the  
15 licenses.

16 Highlighting the opportunities for public  
17 involvement, they're indicated by the splash marks.  
18 The first opportunity was the opportunity to file a  
19 petition to request a hearing on the renewal  
20 application. That opportunity began in December and  
21 closed in early January. That process requires that a  
22 petition be submitted to hold hearings on issues that  
23 will be litigated by a panel of judges. There were no  
24 petitions requesting a hearing for the Cook license  
25 renewal review.

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1                   The next opportunity for public  
2 involvement is today's meeting, which is part of the  
3 environmental scoping process. In scoping, we determine  
4 the issues that need to be addressed in our  
5 environmental review.

6                   The next opportunity for public  
7 involvement would be when we request comments on our  
8 draft environmental impact statement. Finally, oral and  
9 written statements can be provided during the ACRS  
10 meetings reviewing the staff's review.

11                   In addition to these opportunities,  
12 throughout this process, members of the public who have  
13 nuclear safety concerns can raise those issues during  
14 additional public meetings that the NRC will hold to  
15 discuss our review of the Cook application. Meetings on  
16 particular technical issues are usually held at our  
17 headquarters office in Rockville. However, some  
18 technical meetings, or meetings to summarize inspection  
19 results, are typically held near the plant site. That's  
20 a brief review of the license renewal process. I can  
21 take questions regarding that process at this time.

22                   MR. CAMERON: Any questions for Bob or  
23 John about any aspect of this? Okay. Great. Thank  
24 you, Bob. And staff is available after the meeting if  
25 there are any questions, as well.

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1 MR. SCHAAF: I'll now proceed to the  
2 heart of the presentation, which is discussing the  
3 environmental review process.

4 The National Environmental Policy Act, or  
5 NEPA, is a Congressional mandate enacted in 1969, which  
6 requires all federal agencies to use a systematic  
7 approach to consider environmental impacts during  
8 certain decision-making proceedings. It's a disclosure  
9 tool, which involves the public. And it involves the  
10 process in which information is gathered to enable  
11 federal agencies to make informed decisions. And then  
12 as part of that process, we document that information  
13 and invite public participation to evaluate it. The  
14 NEPA process for license renewal results in an  
15 environmental impact statement, also called EIS, which  
16 describes the results of the detailed review that we do  
17 to evaluate the environmental impacts of a proposed  
18 action that may significantly affect the quality of the  
19 human environment. In this case, we are preparing a  
20 supplement to the generic EIS for license renewal. The  
21 generic EIS addressed a number of issues common to all  
22 nuclear plants and identified additional issues that  
23 need to be reviewed for each nuclear plant applying for  
24 license renewal.

25 Our review considers environmental impacts

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1 of alternatives to the proposed action, including a  
2 no-action alternative, which would be simply not  
3 approving a request, and the impacts of constructing and  
4 operating alternative power-generating facilities.

5 At this point, we're in the process of  
6 gathering information we need to prepare that  
7 supplemental impact statement, and, in particular, at  
8 this stage, we are performing what we call scoping. The  
9 NRC is having this meeting as part of our scoping  
10 process for the purpose of providing you and other  
11 government agencies with an opportunity to provide us  
12 with any information that they believe may have some  
13 bearing on our environmental evaluation.

14 In particular, we are looking for  
15 information that may not be readily available or  
16 concerns that people might have that may not have been  
17 addressed by AEP in their application.

18 This slide describes the objective of our  
19 environmental review as stated in our regulations. To  
20 paraphrase, we are trying to determine whether or not  
21 renewing the Cook license for an additional 20 years is  
22 acceptable from an environmental standpoint. I should  
23 emphasize that if we conclude that license renewal is  
24 acceptable from an environmental perspective, all that  
25 means is that it will be environmentally acceptable for

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1 AEP to operate Cook for an additional 20 years. The  
2 NRC doesn't determine whether they actually operate for  
3 those additional 20 years. That decision is made by AEP  
4 and state regulators. It is possible that a utility  
5 could determine that it's not economically feasible to  
6 continue operating a plant, even though it is  
7 environmentally acceptable.

8 This slide gives a little more detail on  
9 the environmental portion of our license renewal review.  
10 AEP's application was received on November 3rd of last  
11 year. On February 6th of this year, we issued a notice  
12 of our intent to perform scoping, which we are doing  
13 now, and our intent to develop an environmental impact  
14 statement. We're currently in the data-gathering phase  
15 to determine the environmental impacts of renewing the  
16 license. After that, we will develop a draft  
17 environmental impact statement, which we expect to issue  
18 for public comment in September of this year. We'll  
19 also come back here in early November for another public  
20 meeting to talk about the results of our review and to  
21 provide an opportunity for public -- for the public to  
22 provide any comments they may have on our draft impact  
23 statement.

24 After receiving and evaluating any  
25 comments, we will then develop the final environmental

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1 impact statement, which we expect to issue in May of  
2 next year.

3 We are gathering information for our  
4 evaluation from a number of different sources, as shown  
5 here. This week we'll go to the site to review AEP's  
6 procedures for managing environmental impacts, and to  
7 observe firsthand how the plant interacts with the  
8 environment. We are also meeting with federal, state,  
9 and local government officials, and we will consider all  
10 comments received from the public during the comment  
11 period.

12 This slide shows the range of issues,  
13 range of environmental topics our team is reviewing.  
14 Impacts considered include such things as air quality,  
15 water quality, and effects on plants and wildlife. We  
16 also look at what we call "socioeconomics" -- how does  
17 the plant affect people's lives economically?

18 We have assembled a team of NRC staff and  
19 experts from the national labs with backgrounds in  
20 specific technical and scientific disciplines necessary  
21 to complete our review.

22 To summarize a few key dates from an  
23 earlier slide, our schedule is to complete the scoping  
24 process by April 6th, when the public comment period  
25 ends. After that, as indicated, we plan to issue our

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1 draft environmental impact statement in September this  
2 year, and the final impact statement in May of next  
3 year. If you would like a copy of those reports sent  
4 directly to you, please be sure to fill out a  
5 registration card at the desk.

6 This slide provides you with my phone  
7 number in case you have additional questions after you  
8 leave today. I'm the designated point-of-contact for  
9 the environmental review of the license renewal  
10 application.

11 Although you're welcome to contact me with  
12 any questions, if you wish to have comments addressed in  
13 our review, it must be provided either in writing, which  
14 we will provide you the addresses shortly, or as Chip  
15 indicated, through oral comments given at this meeting,  
16 which is being transcribed.

17 Arrangements have been made for the  
18 documents associated with the environmental review to be  
19 available locally. The Bridgman Public Library and the  
20 Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library in St. Joseph  
21 have been kind enough to make shelf space available for  
22 documents related to our review. Also, documents are  
23 available through our documents management system, which  
24 can be accessed on our Internet Web page.

25 After this meeting, comments can be

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1 submitted by mail, in person, or by e-mail. You can  
2 send specific written comments to us at the address  
3 shown. If you happen to be in the Rockville area, you  
4 can deliver them in person, or you can also submit  
5 comments by e-mail to the e-mail address indicated on  
6 the slide.

7 And this concludes our formal presentation on  
8 the environmental review. And in closing, I'd like to  
9 thank everyone for their attention and for your  
10 attendance at today's meeting. And I can take any  
11 questions that you might have now.

12 MR. CAMERON: Any questions? Okay.  
13 Before we go to public comment, just let me introduce  
14 one person. Ivy? Ivy Netzel is back here, and she's  
15 one of the resident inspectors, NRC resident inspectors  
16 at D.C. Cook.

17 And thank you, Bob. Okay. I was going to  
18 ask local governmental elected officials to start us  
19 with those people, and then go to the company to get  
20 their vision on license renewal.

21 And, first of all, I wanted to ask  
22 Mr. John Gast to come up, who is the Lake Township's  
23 supervisor, and thank you also for the use of this  
24 facility, Mr. Gast.

25 MR. GAST: You're welcome. Good

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1 afternoon. I'm here today in support of the relicensing  
2 of the Cook nuclear facility. I'm a lifelong resident  
3 of the community of Lake Township and currently hold the  
4 position of Township supervisor. I retired from a law  
5 enforcement career of 26 years, which my work was mainly  
6 in Lake Township. I worked closely with Cook plant  
7 personnel over the years. The plant and its employees  
8 and management have been great community partners and  
9 supported many of the non-profit organizations in our  
10 area. The economic impact of the Cook facility and --  
11 afforded the citizens of this community a stable  
12 economic background and growth, as well as the  
13 Township's single largest employer. The Township enjoys  
14 municipal water, sanitary, water utilities throughout  
15 the Township, and one of the lowest millages in the  
16 area. Township residents also enjoy a wide range of  
17 services provided at no additional cost.

18 Before 9/11 events, Cook Nuclear Visitor's  
19 Center for years was one of the Township's destination  
20 spots for visitors in educational opportunities. The  
21 facility was a showcase for our community. The power  
22 plant owners have always promoted safety, and AEP is no  
23 exception, operating with safety of the public as a top  
24 priority and being stewards of our local environment. I  
25 personally had no communications concerning the

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1 relicensing of this facility well into the years of  
2 2034 and 2037. Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Gast.  
4 I believe we have a representative from State Senator  
5 Jelinek's office here, Chris Siebenmark. Chris.

6 MR. SIEBENMARK: Good afternoon. A letter  
7 of support on Senator Jelinek's behalf, and I will  
8 continue from here:

9 "Statement of Support: American Electric  
10 Power/Cook Nuclear Plant, Bridgman, Michigan.

11 I would like to thank American Electric Power  
12 for its commitment to the economic and social  
13 welfare of Senate District 21 of the State of  
14 Michigan. I applaud its decision to pursue  
15 extension of the operating licenses for Cook  
16 Nuclear Plant, Bridgman, Michigan, for 20  
17 additional years beyond their expiration  
18 dates, (Unit 1: 2014 and Unit 2: 2017).

19 "Since Cook Plant began commercial  
20 operations in 1975, it has proven itself to be  
21 an excellent corporate citizen. Cook Plant  
22 contributes to the nearly 20 percent of  
23 electricity generated by commercial nuclear  
24 plants in the United States. By not burning  
25 fossil fuels, it helps our nation conserve

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1           valuable resources and balance our energy mix.  
2           Such conservation is imperative, as the U.S.  
3           Department of Energy projects our country will  
4           need 50 percent more electricity by the year  
5           2020. Cook Nuclear Plant, with one of the  
6           nation's largest generating capacities, could  
7           play a vital role in meeting the energy needs  
8           of our country and district in the future.

9           "Today the Cook Nuclear Plant generates  
10          2.1 million kilowatts of electricity for  
11          residences and businesses. It is the third  
12          largest employer in Berrien County, providing  
13          almost 1,400 AEP and contract jobs, supporting  
14          our local, state and national economies with  
15          \$90 million in total wages. Cook is a major  
16          contributor to our tax base to the tune of  
17          almost \$14 million in 2001.

18          "Cook Nuclear operates with high safety  
19          and security standards to protect its  
20          employees, property, the environment, and the  
21          citizens of our state, emitting no greenhouse  
22          gasses, minimizing air pollution, and helping  
23          our region achieve its air quality goals with  
24          the EPA and Michigan Department of  
25          Environmental Quality.

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1 "Cook Nuclear Plant has minimized the need  
2 to build additional fossil fuel power  
3 facilities on our district's valuable green  
4 space to meet our citizen's growing electric  
5 power needs; occupies only 20 percent of AEP's  
6 650 acres of property and uses the rest of the  
7 land as sanctuary for hundreds of birds,  
8 plants and wildlife, including threatened  
9 species; continuously samples the air, soil,  
10 foliage, surface and groundwater at over 20  
11 different monitoring stations to ensure Cook  
12 Plant meets or exceeds environmental  
13 standards; safely stores its used fuels in a  
14 highly secure location on Cook Plant property;  
15 contributes approximately \$200,000 annually to  
16 United Way, with 50 percent matching donations  
17 from AEP.

18 "The AEP Cook Nuclear Plant is a valued  
19 and desired corporation in our district. I  
20 ask that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
21 give every consideration to the 20-year  
22 license extensions of AEP Cook Nuclear  
23 Plant -- if AEP Cook Nuclear Plant meets or  
24 exceeds the NRC's safety, technical and  
25 environmental criteria pursuant to continued

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1 operation. Sincerely, Ron Jelinek, State  
2 Senator."

3 If I may add, this morning I was at a  
4 meeting with State Representatives Charlie LaSata and  
5 Neal Nitz, and they also concur in full with Ron's  
6 wishes on this endorsement. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Chris.  
8 And please thank Senator Jelinek for us, too. We're  
9 going to go to some representatives of American Electric  
10 Power to explain their vision and rationale behind the  
11 license renewal application, and then come back to local  
12 officials and others. And I'd like to introduce Mano  
13 Nazar, who is a Senior Vice President and the Chief  
14 Nuclear Officer for American Electric Power.

15 MR. NAZAR: Thank you. I'm Mano Nazar,  
16 Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer for AEP.  
17 As you know, AEP is one of the largest utilities in the  
18 United States that generates more than 40,000 megawatts  
19 nationally. And Cook is a very important source of  
20 energy, major resource of energy for AEP. AEP has  
21 committed more than \$20 million to start this process  
22 and apply for license renewal, and there are going to be  
23 millions more in looking forward to continue getting  
24 ready for the license renewal.

25 License renewal, obviously, is a major

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1 milestone for AEP, Cook, and the community, as you've  
2 heard some of the local officials mention.

3           What does 20 years of additional operation  
4 mean? It means diverse energy supply; it means  
5 environmental balance; it means source a of jobs and tax  
6 revenue for the community, as you heard from some of our  
7 colleagues. License renewal is all about prevention and  
8 detection. And it's not any different than the original  
9 license process that was granted for -- operate the  
10 facility for 40 years. This process includes the  
11 careful examination and analysis of the programs to  
12 monitor the structures and equipment, to ensure that we  
13 prevent failures and take the appropriate action as far  
14 as to the failures. That's what the prevention is all  
15 about.

16           I have to mention that I came from Duke  
17 Power, Duke Energy, and I was the Plant Manager for the  
18 Oconee nuclear site. That is a three-unit power plant,  
19 about 3,000 megawatts output, and Oconee was the second  
20 power plant that applied for the license renewal, and  
21 the 20 additional years was granted by NRC. So, I have  
22 been through this process, and as one of the initial  
23 license renewal applications that was applied for this  
24 nation, went through a good learning process that we are  
25 applying to Cook. And that's going to be, obviously, an

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1     asset with moving forward.

2                     We have commitment, as AEP and my personal  
3     commitment, to the safe operation and support of the  
4     community. Our mission is to operate the facility the  
5     safest possible while we are caring for employees, our  
6     employees, community, and environment. Thank you very  
7     much.

8                     MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mano.  
9     And next we're going to hear from Michael Finissi.

10                    MR. FINISSI: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
11     everyone. My name is Mike Finissi. I'm the Plant  
12     Manager of the Cook Nuclear Power Plant. I'm a 19-year  
13     AEP employee, most of which has been spent on the  
14     nuclear side supporting the nuclear power plant. A  
15     little bit about my background; I have an engineering  
16     degree; a business degree; I'm a Professional Engineer;  
17     and I'm also -- I was also a licensed Senior Reactor  
18     Operator on this plant, which makes me uniquely  
19     qualified to perform my duty as Plant Manager. My  
20     number one duty is safety. Safety to protect our  
21     children, our community, our employees. An example,  
22     last year, we had an inconsequential steam leak on the  
23     plant. We could have possibly fixed the steam leak  
24     online in one of our components; we elected to go ahead  
25     and shut the plant down because that's the safest thing

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1 for our employees.

2 As far as our environmental stewardship,  
3 the plant was built, what I call, to blend into the  
4 surrounding environment. We do not have cooling towers,  
5 and we do not have containment domes which stick up  
6 above the sand dunes. Our staff of 20 environmental  
7 employees make sure that we meet our state and federal  
8 requirements. Also, we have a staff of folks back in  
9 Columbus, Ohio, which is our service corporation to  
10 support us, as well. As mentioned earlier, we built a  
11 nature trail which is tied to our Visitor's Center,  
12 which allows the community to go and be one with nature.  
13 It's actually a unique experience.

14 Our recycling program, we work with the  
15 local Gateway Group, which is a benefit for us in that  
16 we recycle paper, and also we benefit the community, as  
17 well.

18 In conclusion, I believe our submittal was  
19 thorough and is accurate. Also, I believe that license  
20 renewal is good for the community. It will enable the  
21 Cook Nuclear Power Plant to provide low-cost, clean  
22 energy for many years to come. Thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. We're  
24 next going to hear from Rich Grumbier, also from the  
25 company, and he is the License Renewal Project Manager

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1 for AEP.

2 MR. GRUMBIER: Good afternoon, everyone.

3 As Chip mentioned, I'm the License Renewal Project  
4 Manager. My name is Richard Grumbier. I've been with  
5 Cook about five years, and I just want to share just  
6 some of the rigor that we put into the application, as  
7 well as some of the company's -- AEP, as a corporate  
8 company, their environmental stewardship.

9 As Mike indicated, the application is very  
10 thorough. We solicited some input from our  
11 environmental experts working at the station, as well as  
12 hired an outside firm that is experienced with a lot of  
13 applications throughout the industry. We spent a lot of  
14 time looking at our existing environmental compliance,  
15 Department of Environmental Quality for Michigan, the  
16 Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife,  
17 and the report was put together and is supporting the  
18 application for continuing operation.

19 Not only are we -- I also want to share  
20 that not only are we committed to local environmental,  
21 such as the Visitor's Center, supporting the Chikaming  
22 Park Township, where we assisted in purchasing some  
23 land, but we also do environmental or experimental work  
24 with wind generators. And we're also involved in the  
25 Bolivia and Belize forest preservation projects.

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1 To date with the application, we've had  
2 three on-site audits from the NRC, as they're doing the  
3 environmental -- I'm sorry, not the environmental, but  
4 the safety review. And we -- As Bob indicated, we are  
5 looking forward to tomorrow where we are starting the  
6 environmental site visit. We're prepared to support the  
7 NRC in the review, provide whatever information is  
8 necessary to assist them in that review, respond to any  
9 questions, and we are looking forward to going through  
10 this review process and being here for another 20 years.  
11 Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,  
13 Rich. And thank you, Mano, for having your team make  
14 this presentation -- these presentations to us. We've  
15 been joined by Sheriff Paul Bailey, of the Berrien  
16 County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Bailey. And then  
17 we'll next go to Lieutenant Mays, Michigan State Police.

18 MR. BAILEY: Sorry, Willie.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MR. BAILEY: I'm Sheriff Paul Bailey and  
21 it's great to be here to see all the NRC people and Cook  
22 plant personnel. We work very closely with them during  
23 the years, since 1975. Since the first reactor was in  
24 operation at the Cook Plant, the Sheriff's Department  
25 has been there to assist to make sure that all safety

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1 issues are taken care of properly, and we have done that  
2 through the Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State  
3 Police and all the local departments in the county. We  
4 have a good working relationship. There's 23 police  
5 departments in Berrien County, so I feel very confident  
6 as sheriff, if something happened, that we could provide  
7 protection for our citizens. And we train very well  
8 with the personnel at the Cook plant, be it their  
9 supervisor of security; and their security officers are  
10 a true team that does regular training down there yearly  
11 with the plant security, and we have a good working  
12 relationship. And as sheriff, I recommend that you  
13 approve their licenses so that they continue business  
14 here in Berrien County. And thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Sheriff  
16 Bailey. Now we have Lieutenant Mays. I'm sorry if I  
17 violated protocol there.

18 (Laughter.)

19 LIEUTENANT MAYS: No, we just have a long  
20 history together. Thank you for allowing me the chance  
21 to speak on behalf of the Cook Nuclear Power Plant.

22 Just to build off what the Sheriff has  
23 said, our relationship has grown so strong over the  
24 years. I've watched the security at D.C. Cook go from  
25 an intrusion team to a containment team, now to a

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1 protection team. Our law enforcement agencies all over  
2 the county get along very well with the Cook security  
3 group. And it's really -- unusually, I've worked at  
4 several parts of the State where I've had the opportunity  
5 to train at most -- at several nuclear plants, but I  
6 found with Cook, they're open for suggestions all the  
7 time. And if you mention that suggestion to them, when  
8 you come back to another meeting, you can see that it's  
9 already been implemented, and whatever program you say  
10 that you can see that they could better their security,  
11 is already a done deal.

12 And we can appreciate that in law  
13 enforcement and the thing is, now things are being  
14 coordinated. When somebody mentioned earlier about  
15 having to shut down one of the plants, one of the  
16 reactors, I got a call at home to be advised of that, so  
17 the communication system -- and since 9/11, we have  
18 grown so much stronger since then. As law enforcement,  
19 you can really appreciate that. We do all our training  
20 there; they're very open and, also, the thing is, that  
21 information that they gave us and put out, sometimes the  
22 information they receive before we do, and it's kind of  
23 unusual, but when they do, they share that information.  
24 So, I'm in support of D.C. Cook to be relicensed for the  
25 following years to come. And if there is any questions

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1 after we're done, I'd be more than happy to answer. But  
2 I really appreciate the time that you've given me,  
3 allowed me for this space. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Lieutenant  
5 Mays. We're going to go to three local officials now.  
6 First of all, Aaron Anthony, who is the City Manager of  
7 Bridgman, and then we'll go to Craig Massey from the  
8 Berrien County Health Department, and then Kevin Ivers  
9 of Bridgman Public Schools; then we'll go to Jeff  
10 Knolls, Chamber of Commerce.

11 MR. ANTHONY: Thank you for the  
12 opportunity to represent the city at this hearing. We  
13 found -- Let me back up just a little bit, because I had  
14 a little bit of experience working with both Cook and --  
15 it wasn't AEP then, but we'll say AEP, when I first came  
16 to this county in '77. I was the county planning/public  
17 works director, which meant that we also dealt with  
18 economic development and a number of those issues, so we  
19 had a chance to work with the staff that did the  
20 economic development at that particular time. Since  
21 then, we've got a lot more firsthand -- Although Cook is  
22 not directly located within the jurisdiction of the city  
23 of Bridgman, its effects are felt in several ways,  
24 particularly there through jobs, job development,  
25 support for the service industry with restaurants and

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1 service stations and all of that. In addition to those  
2 particular items, we were lucky enough to have, after  
3 about a 150 loss, when a company moved out of town, to  
4 have AEP come in and put their material center within  
5 the City of Bridgman. So, in almost every facet of the  
6 economic development side of the City of Bridgman, the  
7 effect of Cook and AEP can be felt. You've already  
8 heard that they're a major employer in the county.  
9 Well, if you look at their employment figures, and then  
10 you look at our town of 2,400, 2,500 folks, not all of  
11 them work there, and I wouldn't mind, by the way, if you  
12 had those kind of jobs open, but several of them do, and  
13 so we get the support, as well, for the citizens here in  
14 the city. The city, obviously, on those bases, would  
15 endorse and encourage the license renewal. That's all I  
16 have. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thanks a lot, Mr. Anthony.  
18 And we're going to go to Mr. Massey from Berrien County  
19 Health Department.

20 MR. MASSEY: Good afternoon. I'm the  
21 Berrien County Public Health Emergency Services  
22 Coordinator, and I work very closely on a day-to-day  
23 basis with the Sheriff's Emergency Management Office.  
24 My previous career as an Army field artillery officer  
25 allowed me the opportunity for quite a few years to be

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1 responsible for my unit's nuclear weapons, operations  
2 and training, and supporting NATO's only multinational  
3 corps in northern Europe. At that time, I organized and  
4 controlled nuclear weapons accident and incident  
5 exercises involving five nations, military and civilian  
6 players. Since my arrival here at this position in  
7 December of '02, I've worked regularly on a monthly  
8 basis or better, in fact, more recently it's been almost  
9 on a daily basis, with AEP's local emergency management  
10 group. And I can safely say without any qualification  
11 that their positive attitude and technical proficiency  
12 has favorably impressed me. And they also lend credence  
13 to AEP's overall emergency management program. So, in  
14 view of -- again, from my limited opinion, of AEP's very  
15 professional emergency management program personnel,  
16 they are at least one of the many reasons why this  
17 application should be favorably considered.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Massey.

19 MR. MASSEY: You're welcome.

20 MR. CAMERON: And we're going to go to  
21 Mr. Ivers from Bridgman, City of Bridgman Public  
22 Schools.

23 MR. IVERS: Thank you for having me here.  
24 Good afternoon. As the superintendent of Bridgman Public  
25 Schools, I would like to recommend that the application

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1 for the renewal for the D.C. Cook Power Plant be  
2 approved. I represent 1,007 students and 145 employees,  
3 and, outside of the D.C. Cook Plant, we are probably the  
4 largest employer in the City of Bridgman and Lake  
5 Township. AEP and D.C. Cook have been partners with the  
6 schools for over 30 years. Prior to the 9/11 incident,  
7 our students regularly visited the plant, they learned  
8 about nuclear power, and they walked the nature trails.  
9 We used the Visitor's Center and conference rooms to  
10 hold Board of Education retreats and many student  
11 recognition events. Last March we asked our community  
12 taxpayers to help support a recreational millage to help  
13 fund our community pool. When we first had that idea,  
14 we met with representatives from the Cook plant, and  
15 they were in support of this millage, and we were very  
16 fortunate that it passed. Without their financial  
17 support, we would not be able to provide the level of  
18 education that we currently offer to our students. We  
19 view the D.C. Cook Plant and AEP as good neighbors, and  
20 we support their application for license renewal. Thank  
21 you.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thanks a lot, Mr. Ivers.  
23 We're going to go to Jeff Knowles, Cornerstone Chamber  
24 of Commerce, at this point.

25 MR. KNOWLES: Thank you very much. It's a

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1 privilege to be here today. I'm with the Chamber of  
2 Commerce. We happen to have 722 members. We promote  
3 the brand, "Michigan's Great Southwest," because we  
4 really do believe everything in Berrien County, the  
5 163,000 people, are definitely enriched by the Cook  
6 Nuclear Plant. So, we are, obviously, in favor of the  
7 relicensing for all of those well-known economic and tax  
8 base and job reasons. But let me share with you some of  
9 the reasons why we believe this facility is so critical  
10 to the quality of life in this area. Maybe some things  
11 that you had not thought about. With over 1,400  
12 employees, those individuals have partners and spouses,  
13 who bring such great skill sets to this area. There are  
14 teachers, there are business managers, they work in our  
15 hospitals. So, Cook Nuclear supports more than just the  
16 direct job base that exists right in this area. The  
17 influx of the skills that you have are oftentimes needed  
18 and too often overlooked. About a year ago we had a  
19 windstorm and lots of trees were blown over, and some of  
20 the horticultural engineering staff here at Cook Nuclear  
21 gave advice to residents and neighbors about how to wrap  
22 the seedlings so you didn't have to cut them up, you  
23 could replant them. And today I think we have more  
24 mature trees in the area as a result of one tiny skill  
25 set that this facility brings to our area.

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1 I'd also like to say they're a cultural  
2 leader. Look at Mano. What we find is that of 1,400  
3 employees, you have representatives that come from all  
4 across the globe and different parts and different  
5 regions of our country. And that cultural impact that  
6 you have in our community is critical. Because this is  
7 a community that is embracing diverse inclusion, and  
8 Cook Nuclear is definitely a leader in that area.

9 We also would like to say that you're a  
10 social leader. It's not enough to give money, to give  
11 to charitable organizations, but it's employees who lead  
12 those organizations who really do truly enhance our  
13 quality of life. They're the coaches who made a  
14 difference on my son; they are the leaders of churches  
15 who bring their accounting skills and their engineering  
16 skills to do the right kind of planning. So it's not  
17 just the money, but it's the real influx of your talent  
18 and your people that make such a world of difference in  
19 this area. And from the Chamber of Commerce standpoint,  
20 I would close by offering the following thought:  
21 Everyone in "Michigan's Great Southwest" embraces this  
22 facility, because if you look at development that has  
23 occurred since you opened, the quality of development is  
24 gravitating towards the Cook Nuclear and not away from  
25 it. And so, as a result, people have spoken with their

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1 pocketbooks by saying the new golf courses, the new  
2 residential areas, the new shopping locations are all  
3 there and all invested because they embrace and support  
4 and are looking forward to the licensing renewal for the  
5 Cook Nuclear facility. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. We're  
7 going to go to Bill Downey and then Marty Golob and  
8 Larry Wozniak. Bill.

9 MR. DOWNEY: I didn't have anything  
10 prepared today. I wasn't on the speaker's list, but --

11 MR. CAMERON: Why don't I capture you on  
12 here.

13 MR. DOWNEY: Sure. Unofficially, speaking  
14 as more of public citizen, I'm here to support the Cook  
15 nuclear facility. I know that my family and a lot of  
16 families and friends that I have in the community have  
17 been here all of my life, have enjoyed the Cook nuclear  
18 facility and particularly the Visitor's Center. I think  
19 a lot of the success of -- and the support of Cook is  
20 due to the Visitor's Center and what it has brought to  
21 the area and a lot of the outreach in the community.  
22 Much has been said by the other speakers here. But  
23 speaking very personally as a family guy, knowing that  
24 we have such a facility here, and people who are willing  
25 to go out and educate our children about power and about

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1 engineering and about all of those things that are  
2 available out in the world today, I'm very proud to be a  
3 supporter of the Cook Center.

4 On a professional note, I've also been  
5 involved with a number of the people at Cook for the  
6 past six years, working for Perry Ballet (phonetic),  
7 Incorporated; and I know that the people there are  
8 extraordinary people, and I would heartily support them  
9 for license renewal in that regard, as well. So,  
10 unofficial comments. Thank you.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Bill. Marty,  
12 Marty Golob.

13 MR. GOLOB: Good afternoon. Thank you for  
14 the opportunity to present this morning. I am Marty  
15 Golob. I've been with the United Way of Southwest  
16 Michigan for six years, so I'm transplanted to this  
17 community, like many of you. I have 15 years experience  
18 working with United Way in four different regions of the  
19 country. Have a great deal of experience working with  
20 utilities at that point in time and the participation in  
21 the community. I can say unequivocally I've never seen  
22 a corporate citizen of the caliber of AEP and the D.C.  
23 Cook Plant and the participation in the community. I  
24 think it's core that not only do they involve themselves  
25 as a corporation philanthropically in many aspects of

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1 our community, but they support their employees'  
2 involvement, as well, on boards, and as we've heard  
3 spoken of earlier today, in the churches, in the teams,  
4 in the events in the community. So we see their  
5 employees encouraged to participate in the community.  
6 We've seen AEP get involved regionally on many levels,  
7 most recently with Benton Harbor area schools and  
8 rebirth and regrowth program for that community in their  
9 education base. As a major employer, yes, they do  
10 contribute over \$200,000 to the United Way of Southwest  
11 Michigan annually, and that is just a portion of the  
12 economic impact that they have on the health and human  
13 services in our community.

14 So, I would, again, heartily encourage the  
15 20-year extension being proposed for today. Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: All right. Thank you,  
17 Mr. Golob. Mr. Wozniak.

18 MR. WOZNIAK: Thank you. After all of the  
19 suits and ties, I come here in my blue jeans. It's my  
20 day off today. I just want to talk about the economic  
21 development part of the Cook plant and nuclear plant  
22 here. For the last 10 years that our hotel alone, which  
23 is the Park Inn in Stevensville, we have taken in income  
24 over \$800,000 from nuclear plant employees. So, a lot  
25 of people who live in town who are permanent residents

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1 here, but there's lots of transient business who comes  
2 in for the plant. Forty percent of that money is the  
3 contractors that come in. The Framatome, guys like  
4 that, come in and work from other companies who were  
5 hired here. So it's a lot of money spent at hotels, and  
6 I'm just one of currently 20 hotels in the area, and  
7 that's about 10 percent of our business over the last 10  
8 years. So, it's definitely a good chunk of our  
9 business, and we appreciate that tremendously.

10 Also, the hotels that are here, they also  
11 have to do -- they're eating and they're buying their  
12 gas. They don't eat a whole lot of time when they're  
13 here working now, they don't do much tourism-type  
14 things, but they are spending money other places, too.  
15 So, the restaurants also benefit, as well as the gas  
16 stations, I know for sure, and the movie theater, maybe  
17 on their day off or something like that. And the other  
18 thing is, the Welcome Center, it's been talked about a  
19 lot. We miss that Welcome Center. They had the trade  
20 shows, you know, the different shows every month or so.  
21 The vendors would come in from out of town and stay at  
22 the hotel. Sometimes out-of-town guests would be there  
23 just for the show itself. But it was also a fantastic  
24 tourist attraction. Sure, we joked about when the  
25 guests would go to the nuclear plant for the tour,

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1 they'd come back and be their own night-light in the  
2 room because they'd glow for 24 hours, but, you know,  
3 we'd just joke about that, and they'd laugh and go on,  
4 and everybody had a great time at the plant and at the  
5 tour. So, those are definitely two aspects that help  
6 the hotels and the economy in our area. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Larry, for coming  
8 on your day off to talk with us. Did I miss anybody out  
9 there? Is there anybody else who wants to speak at this  
10 point? Okay.

11 Well, we do have NRC staff here, experts,  
12 consultants, to talk after the meeting, and we'll be  
13 back at seven o'clock tonight to do another meeting.  
14 And I would just ask, John, do you want to close it out  
15 for us?

16 MR. TAPPERT: Sure. Just want to thank  
17 everyone for coming out, taking the time out of the day  
18 to come to the meeting. We appreciate all your  
19 comments. I remind you that our scoping comment period  
20 does extend to April 6th, so if you want to amend or  
21 have any additional comments, please send them in. And  
22 we will be back this evening and the staff will be here  
23 after the meeting if you have any personal questions.  
24 But thanks again for coming, and that's it.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

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1 MR. GREEN: May I speak?

2 MR. CAMERON: And we have one more  
3 speaker.

4 MR. GREEN: Okay. Good. Hi. Yes, sir.

5 MR. CAMERON: Why don't you relax and join  
6 us up here. This is Mike Green from Habitat for  
7 Humanity.

8 MR. GREEN: I'm sorry I'm late, folks.

9 MR. CAMERON: That's okay. You're just  
10 right on time, and you can either use the podium or you  
11 can use this, whichever you feel more comfortable with.

12 MR. GREEN: Good afternoon. My name is  
13 Mike Green. I'm executive director of Harbor Habitat  
14 for Humanity, and Harbor Habitat is a non-profit housing  
15 organization that -- is in 92 countries all around the  
16 world. And, in Benton Harbor in 1996, we started an  
17 affiliate that has begun to create housing opportunities  
18 for low-income people in the City of Benton Harbor. The  
19 employees and the staff at the Cook plant have been very  
20 instrumental in our success, and I just want to come and  
21 say a few words in support of them.

22 We have been the benefactors of their good  
23 will. Many of the employees from the Cook Plant have  
24 come and helped us construct houses. In fact, on our  
25 board of directors our current president is an employee

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1 for AEP, and we just appreciate what they've done. In  
2 the beginning, 1996, provided some heat pumps for us for  
3 our families who needed housing. And then over the  
4 years, the plant and the employees have actually helped  
5 to construct houses for us, fully funding them.

6 In fact, our current office is located at  
7 785 East Main Street in downtown Benton Harbor, and that  
8 structure was fully funded by AEP. And we appreciate  
9 the employees who came out and helped us build it  
10 because it created a presence for us in our community.  
11 We want to make a statement that we were going to be in  
12 town for the long haul, and credibility is really  
13 important in Benton Harbor when you create a non-profit  
14 organization. You have to do what you say you're going  
15 to do, and we basically needed to gain that credibility  
16 over time by constructing houses and being successful at  
17 that, and we have done that to date. We've built 22  
18 houses. And I apologize I didn't get the numbers  
19 together, but each year AEP has supported us.

20 This year we -- they have offered to fully  
21 fund a house for us. Last year they were part of our  
22 corporate building, and [redacted] and her family are  
23 living in a house that was constructed by the employees  
24 of AEP. So I just want to say thank you to the  
25 employees. Appreciate the support; been a great

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1 corporate partner for us.

2 And one of the things about Habitat for  
3 Humanity is, when a contribution is made, a financial  
4 contribution, it has a way of continuing forever. The  
5 family that receives a Habitat home must pay for that  
6 house. And so when the company makes a contribution to  
7 us, the family turns around and makes a mortgage payment  
8 to us. That mortgage payment is used to build another  
9 house. And then we build a house for another person and  
10 that person then begins to make payments back to us, and  
11 that continues to revolve and increase another  
12 opportunity and builds more houses. And so, every time  
13 an organization helps us, it just has a life of its own  
14 and just continues on and on.

15 So, I just wanted to come here in support  
16 of the employees and the people of AEP and the Cook  
17 plant. It's just been a marvelous partnership, and look  
18 forward to continuing that in years to come.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Okay.  
20 And thank you once again for coming out this afternoon.  
21 And we are adjourned.

22 (Meeting adjourned.)  
23  
24  
25

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